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(54) **LOAD BALANCING FOR A SYSTEM OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC PROCESSORS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In an array of groups of cryptographic processors, the processors in each group operate together but are securely connected through an external shared memory. The processors in each group include cryptographic engines capable of operating in a pipelined fashion. Instructions in the form of request blocks are supplied to the array in a balanced fashion to assure that the processors are occupied processing instructions.